

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A decoder for temporarily storing in a buffer memory  
in sector units digital data having a predetermined number  
5 of bytes processing the digital data by correcting and  
detecting code errors included in the digital data, and  
transferring the processed digital data, the decoder  
comprising:

10 a check head register for storing a first address of  
the buffer memory when the storing of the processed digital  
data to the buffer memory is started;

a check sector counter for counting the number of  
sectors of the processed digital data stored in the buffer  
memory to generate a count value;

15 a command decision circuit connected to the check head  
register and the check sector counter for deciding whether  
the digital data requested to be transferred is stored in  
the buffer memory based on the first address, the count  
value, and a head address of the digital data requested to  
20 be transferred; and

a command register connected to the command decision  
circuit for storing a data transfer request command, wherein  
the command decision circuit permits the decoder to transfer  
the processed digital data when deciding that the digital  
25 data requested to be transferred is stored in the buffer  
memory.

2. The decoder according to claim 1, wherein the count  
value corresponds to an address interval of the processed  
30 digital data occupying the buffer memory, and wherein the  
command decision circuit adds the address interval to the  
first address to generate a comparison address and decides  
whether the digital data requested to be transferred is

stored in the buffer memory by comparing the comparison address and the head address of the digital data that is requested to be transferred.

5           3. The decoder according to claim 2, wherein the command register stores the data transfer request command that includes address information, wherein the command decision circuit decides the head address of the digital data requested to be transferred based on the address  
10           information.

          4. The decoder according to claim 2, wherein the command decision circuit decides the head address of the digital data that is requested to be transferred based on  
15           address information received from an external microcomputer.

          5. The decoder according to claim 1, wherein the decoder is a CD-ROM decoder.

20           6. The decoder according to claim 1, wherein the decoder is a DVD decoder.